



MARYLAND WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2002

Fatal work injuries totaled 102 in 2002 for Maryland, up from the 64 fatal injuries recorded in 2001, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the six major event categories each recorded a higher level of fatalities than the year before; as a result of these increases, this year's count was the highest since 1992, when fatalities totaled 103. Transportation incidents was the leading major event, accounting for over one-third of the deaths.

At the major detailed level, two events in 2002—highway crashes (22) and homicides (22)—accounted for over two-fifths of the deaths in the State. The number of highway crashes in Maryland was at its highest level since the series began in 1992 and accounted for 22 percent of fatal work injuries in 2002. (See table A.) Nationally, highway crashes remained the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities, accounting for one-quarter of fatal work injuries. The number of work-related homicides in Maryland was at its highest level since 1995 and also accounted for 22 percent of fatal work injuries. Work-related deaths due to homicides accounted for 11 percent of the U.S. total.

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in Maryland by selected event groups, 1992-2002

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	103	19	18	24	23	12	12
1993	82	10	12	12	15	7	9
1994	80	13	16	17	21	11	14
1995	86	18	21	28	33	7	8
1996	82	16	20	20	24	5	6
1997	82	14	17	20	24	8	10
1998	78	19	24	15	19	7	9
1999	82	20	24	20	24	6	7
2000	84	19	23	14	17	18	21
2001	64	14	22	15	23	6	9
2002	102	22	22	22	22	12	12

Other leading causes of workplace fatalities in 2002 were falls to lower level (12) and struck by object (9). Work-related deaths due to falls to lower level doubled from the previous year. The number of job-related deaths from being struck by an object was at its highest level since 1996, when 12 workplace fatalities occurred. Together, falls to lower level and struck by object were responsible for about one-fifth of the fatal work injuries in Maryland. (See table 1.)

Nationwide, a total of 5,524 fatal work injuries were reported in 2002, a decline of 7 percent from 2001, excluding work-related fatalities that resulted from the September 11 terrorist attacks. The count for 2002 was the lowest ever recorded by the fatality census, which has been conducted yearly since 1992. All but one of the major event categories recorded a decline, the exception being exposure to harmful substances or environments (up 8 percent). At the more detailed level, the number of job-related deaths from highway crashes decreased by 3 percent

from 2001, but continued to be the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities. Fatalities resulting from falls to lower level declined for the first time since 1998, from 700 in 2001 to 634 in 2002, a drop of 9 percent. Workplace homicides were down 5 percent in 2002, from 643 in 2001 to 609 in 2002. The number of workplace homicides in 2002 was the lowest recorded in the fatality census and represented a 44 percent decline from the high of 1,080 workplace homicides recorded in 1994. (See table B.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected event groups, 1992-2002

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Falls to lower level		Homicides	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	507	8	1,044	17
1993	6,331	1,242	20	534	8	1,074	17
1994	6,632	1,343	20	580	9	1,080	16
1995	6,275	1,346	21	578	9	1,036	17
1996	6,202	1,346	22	610	10	927	15
1997	6,238	1,393	22	653	10	860	14
1998	6,055	1,442	24	625	10	714	12
1999	6,054	1,496	25	634	10	651	11
2000	5,920	1,365	23	659	11	677	11
2001 ¹	5,915	1,409	24	700	12	643	11
2002	5,524	1,372	25	634	11	609	11

¹The BLS national news release issued September 25, 2002 reported a total of 5,900 fatal work injuries for calendar year 2001. Since then, an additional 15 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 2001 to 5,915. Totals for 2001 exclude fatalities due to the events of September 11, 2001 which claimed the lives of 2,886 persons in work status.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in Maryland:

- Men accounted for 85 percent (87) of the work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents, which include highway, non-highway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail, accounted for 37 percent of these deaths. Over one-half of the women (15) fatally injured on-the-job died as a result of assaults and violent acts. (See table 2).
- In Maryland, 59 percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (60); 26 percent were black, non-Hispanic (27); and 10 percent were Hispanic or Latino (10). The leading cause of death for these three groups of workers was transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up almost three-fourths of the State's work-related fatalities in 2002. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-four percent of workers killed on-the-job in Maryland worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. Wage and salary workers died primarily from transportation incidents, while the leading cause of death for the self-employed was assaults and violent acts. (See table 2.)
- Three industry divisions accounted for almost three-fifths of the workplace fatalities in the State—construction (25), transportation and public utilities (17), and government (17). (See table 3.) Work-related deaths in construction were mainly due to falls, while transportation and public utilities and government fatalities were primarily due to transportation incidents.
- Truck drivers (12) and supervisors and proprietors, sales (7) accounted for almost one-fifth of all work-related fatalities in the State. Transportation incidents were the primary cause of death for truck drivers, while most supervisors and proprietors, sales died from assaults and violent acts. (See table 4.)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2002 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Federal/state

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 15 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2002. Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 19 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry division, Maryland, 2002

Event or exposure ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Private Industry ² (percent)								
		Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	Mining ³	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation and public utilities	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance, insurance, and real estate	Services
Total	102	8.8	--	24.5	2.9	16.7	4.9	10.8	--	12.7
Transportation incidents	37	13.5	--	16.2	--	32.4	--	--	--	--
Highway incident	22	--	--	18.2	--	27.3	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	12	--	--	--	--	25.0	--	--	--	--
Moving in intersection	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in roadway	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in parking lot or non-roadway area	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Water vehicle incident	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	23	--	--	--	--	--	--	30.4	--	21.7
Homicides	22	--	--	--	--	--	--	31.8	--	18.2
Shooting	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	37.5	--	--
Stabbing	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with objects and equipment	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls	15	--	--	60.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level	12	--	--	75.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall from roof	3	--	--	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall on same level	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9	--	--	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with electric current	6	--	--	83.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Contact with overhead power lines	5	--	--	80.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fires and explosions	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

² Classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Division B) in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2002 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Maryland, 2002

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹ (percent)					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	102	36.3	22.5	14.7	14.7	8.8	2.9
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	86	39.5	20.9	12.8	15.1	8.1	3.5
Self-employed ⁵	16	18.8	31.3	25.0	--	--	--
Sex							
Men	87	36.8	17.2	16.1	16.1	10.3	3.4
Women	15	33.3	53.3	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years	10	40.0	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years	23	43.5	13.0	13.0	17.4	--	--
35 to 44 years	23	26.1	30.4	17.4	--	13.0	--
45 to 54 years	27	33.3	18.5	14.8	25.9	--	--
55 to 64 years	9	66.7	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over	6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin							
White, non-Hispanic	60	31.7	18.3	15.0	16.7	13.3	5.0
Black, non-Hispanic	27	48.1	25.9	14.8	11.1	--	--
Hispanic or Latino	10	50.0	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian or Pacific Islander	4	--	75.0	--	--	--	--
Asian	4	--	75.0	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

² Includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

⁵ Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Data for 2002 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Maryland, 1997 to 2002

Industry ¹	1997 (number)	1998 (number)	1999 (number)	2000 (number)	2001 (number)	2002	
						Number	Percent
Total	82	78	82	84	64	102	100.0
Private Industry	69	69	76	72	60	85	83.3
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	4	6	14	5	4	9	8.8
Agricultural production-crops	3	4	5	3	--	--	--
General farms, primarily crop	3	4	4	3	--	--	--
Agricultural services	--	--	5	--	--	6	5.9
Landscape and horticultural services	--	--	3	--	--	6	5.9
Lawn and garden services	--	--	--	--	--	3	2.9
Ornamental shrub and tree services	--	--	--	--	--	3	2.9
Construction	12	15	17	26	19	25	24.5
General building contractors	--	6	--	7	5	7	6.9
Residential building construction	--	3	--	6	4	3	2.9
Single-family homes	--	3	--	5	3	3	2.9
Nonresidential building construction	--	--	--	--	--	4	3.9
Heavy construction, except building	3	--	5	4	5	5	4.9
Heavy construction, except highway	--	--	3	3	4	3	2.9
Special trade contractors	8	7	11	15	9	13	12.7
Electrical work	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work	--	--	--	--	3	3	2.9
Miscellaneous special trade contractors	5	3	5	4	--	--	--
Special trade contractors, n.e.c.	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing	9	6	5	5	7	3	2.9
Transportation and public utilities	17	14	15	13	9	17	16.7
Local and interurban passenger transit	4	3	4	3	--	--	--
Taxicabs	4	3	--	3	--	--	--
Trucking and warehousing	8	4	10	5	6	7	6.9
Trucking and courier services, except air	8	4	10	5	6	7	6.9
Local trucking without storage	4	--	--	--	3	4	3.9
Trucking, except local	4	--	8	5	--	3	2.9
Water transportation	3	3	--	--	--	5	4.9
Water transportation services	--	3	--	--	--	5	4.9
Transportation by air	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Wholesale trade	--	--	6	5	3	5	4.9
Wholesale trade--durable goods	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
Wholesale trade--nondurable goods	--	--	4	--	--	3	2.9
Retail trade	12	12	11	12	6	11	10.8
Food stores	4	3	7	3	--	--	--
Grocery stores	3	--	7	3	--	--	--
Eating and drinking places	6	4	3	--	3	--	--
Eating places	6	--	3	--	3	--	--
Drinking places	--	4	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous retail	--	--	--	--	--	3	2.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate	--	--	--	--	4	--	--
Real estate	--	--	--	--	3	--	--
Services	12	13	6	6	8	13	12.7
Auto repair, services, and parking	4	4	3	--	--	3	2.9
Automotive repair shops	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous repair services	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous repair shops	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government²	13	9	6	12	4	17	16.7
Federal Government (including resident armed forces)	--	--	--	--	--	4	3.9
State Government	--	5	3	--	--	--	--
Services	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Social services	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Individual and family services	--	3	--	--	--	--	--
Local Government	11	4	--	10	4	12	11.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Maryland, 1997 to 2002 - continued

Industry ¹	1997 (number)	1998 (number)	1999 (number)	2000 (number)	2001 (number)	2002	
						Number	Percent
Transportation and public utilities	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Water supply	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Public Administration	4	3	--	7	3	9	8.8
Justice, public order, and safety	4	3	--	7	3	8	7.8
Public order and safety	4	3	--	7	3	8	7.8
Police protection	3	--	--	7	3	5	4.9
Fire protection	--	--	--	--	--	3	2.9

¹ Classified according to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987*

² Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Division B in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

³ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2002 are preliminary; data for previous years are final.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Maryland, 2002

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ² (percent)					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	102	36.3	22.5	14.7	14.7	8.8	2.9
Managerial and professional specialty	6	--	50.0	--	--	--	--
Executive, administrative, and managerial	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Technical, sales, and administrative support	14	--	57.1	--	--	--	--
Sales occupations	12	--	66.7	--	--	--	--
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	7	--	71.4	--	--	--	--
Sales workers, retail and personal services	5	--	60.0	--	--	--	--
Service occupations	17	47.1	41.2	--	--	--	--
Protective service occupations	12	66.7	--	--	--	--	--
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including supervisors	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Firefighting occupations	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Police and detectives, including supervisors	7	57.1	--	--	--	--	--
Police and detectives, public services	5	80.0	--	--	--	--	--
Service occupations, except protective and household	5	--	80.0	--	--	--	--
Farming, forestry, and fishing	9	55.6	--	--	--	--	--
Other agricultural and related occupations	7	57.1	--	--	--	--	--
Related agricultural occupations	6	50.0	--	--	--	--	--
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	5	60.0	--	--	--	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair	20	20.0	--	15.0	30.0	20.0	15.0
Mechanics and repairers	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades	15	26.7	--	--	33.3	20.0	--
Construction trades, except supervisors	13	23.1	--	--	38.5	23.1	--
Carpenters and apprentices	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Electricians and apprentices	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	35	48.6	11.4	22.9	8.6	8.6	--
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations	21	61.9	14.3	19.0	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators	15	60.0	20.0	20.0	--	--	--
Truck drivers	12	66.7	--	25.0	--	--	--
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10	40.0	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laborers, except construction	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified."

Data for 2002 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries